

AMENDMENTS to the SPECIFICATION

Please amend the ABSTRACT to read as follows:

~~A networked computer arrangement and method in which a manufacturer or service provider may communicate to a plurality of traders the items, including goods and/or services, which may be available for purchase, the quantities of those available items, and any other conditions to be met for the purchase of the available items. Traders may apply guest bidder profiles or entitlement schema to the available goods lists to produce offerings for a plurality of guest brokers. Only bid-relevant product information is presented to each guest broker as needed in order to protect the offering party's overall position on the offered good(s). Guest broker profiles or entitlement schema may be based on perspective contractual arrangements between potential brokers, traders, and a manufacturer or service provider. Offerings are presented to the guest brokers, who are restricted from participating in the bidding process. In an online four-tier offering and bidding process, a first offeror notifies traders of available products or services. Each trader then communicates offerings to resell the offered products or services to brokers associated with each trader. Then, the brokers respond with bids to purchase the offered products or services according to a reseller master agreement (RMA) which entitles each broker to offer to end users a subset of the offered products and services. A guest profile in the process contains entitlement definitions indicating allowable items about which a guest user may receive information but for which is to be restricted from placing bids, also according to the RMA. The process prepares entitled offerings through filtering an available items list according to the profiles so as to include only offered items per the guest's entitlement. These entitled offerings are then presented to one or more guests for review.~~

Please amend the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION starting on page 11 of the disclosure as follows:

~~In order to address the aforementioned needs in the art, the present invention provides a networked computer arrangement and method in which a manufacturer or service provider may communicate to a plurality of traders the goods or services which may be available, the quantities of those available goods, and any other conditions to be met by bidders or brokers. The present invention operates in an online four-tier offering and bidding process, a first offeror notifies traders of available products or services. Each trader then communicates offerings to resell the offered products or services to brokers associated with each trader. Then, the brokers respond with bids to purchase the offered products or services according to a reseller master agreement (RMA) which entitles each broker to offer to end users a subset of the offered products and services. A guest profile in the process contains entitlement definitions indicating allowable items about which a guest user may receive information but for which is to be restricted from placing bids, also according to the RMA. The process prepares entitled offerings through filtering an available items list according to the profiles so as to include only offered items per the guest's entitlement. These entitled offerings are then presented to one or more guests for review.~~

~~Throughout the disclosure given herein and the following claims, the term "broker" is used to describe a bidding party or bidder, and the term "trader" is used to describe a party who conducts the process of promoting offers to bidding parties. This is nearly analogous to bidder and auctioneer in the context of a traditional auction, respectively, although the offering and bidding process provided by the invention may be used to conduct business-to-business offers as well as traditional types of auctions.~~

~~The system and method allows the traders to apply broker profiles or entitlement schema to those available goods lists to produce offerings for a plurality of bidders or brokers. Typically, the broker profiles or entitlement schema are based on the contractual arrangement between the brokers, the traders, and the manufacturer or service provider.~~

~~The system and method presents the prepared offerings to the brokers, who may submit bids in response to the offerings. The system and method allows the trader to review the collected bids from the broker, and to advance those bids for acceptance either through another order fulfillment system, or through manual confirmation of acceptance of the bid.~~

~~The system is particularly well-adapted for use over the Internet, intranets, and extranets, by allowing common computer web browsers, network terminals, and wireless web browsers to be used as the offering and bidding consoles by the traders and brokers, respectively, and by allowing the manufacturer or service provider to produce the lists of available products or services using common web technologies.~~

~~Specific offerings of materials or services are characterized by a location and product category pair of parameters. Brokers are assigned profiles of one or more location and category parameter pairs for which they are entitled to receive offers and on which they are entitled to bid.~~

~~The system provides the ability for the trader to retrieve lists of available items and their offering parameters from the manufacturer or service provider, and to produce offerings for view by their brokers. According to the disclosure of the related patent application, the brokers may retrieve their offerings from the system and may respond with independent bids. The independent bids are collected by the system and made available to the trader for review and subsequent acceptance.~~

~~According to the present invention, an enhancement is added to this base offering system which allows the potential or guest bidder or broker to have a read-only profile established for him or her. In this case, the operation is similar to that of the system and method of the related application in that the guest bidder receives only information about available products to which he or she is entitled according to his profile matrix, but also all responding and bidding actions are disabled. As such, he or she may experience the functionality of the online offering or auction system without being allowed to participate in the bidding process.~~

Please amend the first paragraph of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION starting on Page 14 beginning with "The present method and system is preferably realized in . . ." as follows:

Throughout the disclosure given herein and the following claims, the term "broker" is used to describe a bidding party or bidder, and the term "trader" is used to describe a party who conducts the process of promoting offers to bidding parties. This is nearly analogous to bidder and auctioneer in the context of a traditional auction, respectively, although the offering and bidding process provided by the invention may be used to conduct business-to-business offers as well as traditional types of auctions.

The system and method allows the traders to apply broker profiles or entitlement schema to those available goods lists to produce offerings for a plurality of bidders or brokers. Typically, the broker profiles or entitlement schema are based on the contractual arrangement between the brokers, the traders, and the manufacturer or service

provider.

The system and method presents the prepared offerings to the brokers, who may submit bids in response to the offerings. The system and method allows the trader to review the collected bids from the broker, and to advance those bids for acceptance either through another order fulfillment system, or through manual confirmation of acceptance of the bid.

The system is particularly well-adapted for use over the Internet, intranets, and extranets, by allowing common computer web browsers, network terminals, and wireless web browsers to be used as the offering and bidding consoles by the traders and brokers, respectively, and by allowing the manufacturer or service provider to produce the lists of available products or services using common web technologies.

Specific offerings of materials or services are characterized by a location and product category pair of parameters. Brokers are assigned profiles of one or more location and category parameter pairs for which they are entitled to receive offers and on which they are entitled to bid.

The system provides the ability for the trader to retrieve lists of available items and their offering parameters from the manufacturer or service provider, and to produce offerings for view by their brokers. According to the disclosure of the related patent application, the brokers may retrieve their offerings from the system and may respond with independent bids. The independent bids are collected by the system and made available to the trader for review and subsequent acceptance.

According to the present invention, an enhancement is added to this base offering system which allows the potential or guest bidder or broker to have a read-only profile established for him or her. In this case, the operation is similar to that of the system and method of the related application in that the guest bidder receives only information about available products to which he or she is entitled according to his profile matrix, but also all responding and bidding actions are disabled. As such, he or she may experience the functionality of the online offering or auction system without being allowed to participate in the bidding process.

The present method and system is preferably realized in a plurality of networked computers, including computer network terminals or consoles, networked database application servers, web servers, and a computer network.. The computer network consoles employed are any suitable device for accessing remote application services over a computer network, including, but not limited to, personal computer-based web browsers, wireless web browsers such as web-enabled wireless telephones and personal digital assistants ("PDA"), Internet appliances, as well as dedicated computer terminals. The database application servers employable in the invention may be any of a wide array of available database application servers, including, but not limited to, IBM Lotus Notes servers, Oracle servers, etc.